However, in 1995, the Registrar of Cooperative Societies, Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi pointed out that as per Bye-laws of the Central Government Employees Consumer Cooperative Society, the area of operation of its stores had to be limited to the National Capital Territory of Delhi. No decision in regard to the conversion of the Society into Multi-State Cooperative Society could be taken as some of the provisions of the revised Bye-Laws of the Society itself were under challenge in Delhi High Court and the matter remained sub-judice till recently.

Central Aid to A.P. Government to Tackle Drought

*62.SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rs. 720 crore Central Aid has been sought by the Andhra Pradesh State Government for tackling drought;

(b) if so, the assistance given, so far; and

(c) by when would the balance amount be given?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has submitted a memorandum seeking assistance of Rs. 720.36 crore from the National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR) in the wake of drought in the State. The entire Central share of Rs. 107.69 crore, out of the allocation of Rs. 143.59 crore to the State under Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) for 1999-2000, has already been released to the State.

(c) The State Government's request for assistance from the NFCR is under consideration in accordance with the established procedure. The same will be placed before the National Calamity Relief Committee (NCRC) for a decision on the quantum of assistance, if any, from the NFCR. Assistance, as approved by the NCRC, will be released to the State Government.

Construction work at Proposed Oil Refinery Near Bina, M.P.

†*63. SHRI RAGHAVJI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the construction work at the proposed oil refinery to be set up near Bina in Madhya Pradesh has been hindered; if so, the reasons therefor,

(b) the amount spent so far on the construction work of the said refinery;

(c) the time-frame and the cost construction fixed for the said refinery;

(d) what will be the increase in cost of construction as a result of the delay occurring due to the above hindrance; and

†Original notice of the Question received in Hindi.